



ULTIMATE SPIRITS CHALLENGE

NO SHORTCUTS. JUST HONEST, IMPARTIAL JUDGING

TOP 100 SPIRITS OF 2023

Ultimate Beverage Challenge (UBC) is pleased to announce the fifth annual ULTIMATE SPIRITS CHALLENGE TOP 100 SPIRITS list. Said award-winning USC Judging Chairman F. PAUL PACULT, who curates each year's registry, "This 'best of the best' roster cites the highest scoring spirits, RTDs, aperitifs, and more from this year's USC, held April through June at the UBC Evaluation Center.

Every beverage included in the USC Top 100 scored an aggregate total of at least 94-points throughout our rigorous and complex multistage evaluation system. These are benchmark beverages, categorical touchstones, that have earned their places on the USC Top 100 list by exhibiting extraordinary quality to our panels of world-class experts.

1. **BHAKTA 1973 Armagnac** (France) **99-points**
2. **Boyd & Blair The Blood Orange Cosmo Vodka with Blood Orange, Cranberry & Lime** (United States) **99-points**
3. **Grand Marnier Revelation Grande Cuvee** (France) **98-points**
4. **Highland Park 21 Years Old Orkneys Single Malt Whisky** (Scotland) **98-points**
5. **W.L. Weller Full Proof Kentucky Straight Bourbon Whiskey** (United States) **98-points**
6. **Mortlach 16 Years Old Speyside Single Malt Whisky** (Scotland) **98-points**
7. **Bainbridge Battle Point Two Islands Hokkaido Mizunara Cask Wheat Whiskey** (United States) **97-points**
8. **Ferrand Dry Curacao** (France) **97-points**
9. **Black Tot Master Blender's Reserve 2022 Rum** (Guyana) **97-points**
10. **Boulard X.O. Auguste Calvados** (France) **97-points**
11. **Bower Hill Single Barrel Bourbon Whiskey** (United States) **97-points**
12. **Bowmore 18 Years Old Islay Single Malt Whisky** (Scotland) **97-points**
13. **Dewar's 18 Years Old Blended Scotch Whisky** (Scotland) **97-points**
14. **Carolans Salted Caramel Irish Cream Liqueur** (Ireland) **97-points**
15. **Delord Creation #13 Bas Armagnac** (France) **97-points**
16. **Boyd & Blair Potato Vodka** (United States) **97-points**
17. **Eagle Rare 10 Years Old Bourbon Whiskey** (United States) **97-points**
18. **BHAKTA 2013 Armagnac Finish Bourbon Whiskey** (United States) **97-points**
19. **Highland Park Viking Pride 18 Years Old Orkneys Single Malt Whisky** (Scotland) **97-points**
20. **Ocho Anejo Tequila** (Mexico) **97-points**
21. **Red Spot 15 Years Old Single Pot Still Whiskey** (Ireland) **97-points**
22. **Rey Campero 2022 Espadin Joven Mezcal** (Mexico) **97-points**
23. **Teeling Blackpitts Peated Single Malt Whiskey** (Ireland) **97-points**
24. **The Scotch Malt Whisky Society Cask No. 78.58 Baking easter treats 9 Years Old Single Malt Scotch Whisky** (United Kingdom) **97-points**
25. **Yushan Origin Kaoliang (Mountain Smoke) Baijiu** (Taiwan) **97-points**
26. **15 Stars Triple Cask 8 Years Old Bourbon Whiskey** (United States) **96-points**
27. **Don Fulano Reposado Tequila** (Mexico) **96-points**
28. **23rd Street Distillery Riverland Rose Flavored Vodka** (Australia) **96-points**
29. **Aberfeldy Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon Cask Finish 15 Years Old Highland Single Malt Whisky** (Scotland) **96-points**
30. **Ardbeg Uigeadail Islay Single Malt Whisky** (Scotland) **96-points**
31. **Avion Reserva 44 Extra Anejo Tequila** (Mexico) **96-points**
32. **AWAYUKI Strawberry Gin** (Japan) **96-points**
33. **Cierto Private Collection Anejo Tequila** (Mexico) **96-points**
34. **Cierto Reserve Collection Blanco Tequila** (Mexico) **96-points**
35. **Cloud House Cold Brew Made with Colombian Rum Coffee Liqueur** (Colombia) **96-points**
36. **Crown Royal Extra Rare 29 Years Old Blended Whisky** (Canada) **96-points**
37. **Cutwater Bali Hai Pina Colada 13% abv** (United States) **96-points**
38. **Dewar's Double Double 32 Years Old Blended Scotch Whisky** (Scotland) **96-points**
39. **Tanqueray No. 10 Gin** (Scotland) **96-points**
40. **Faretti Biscotti Famosi Liqueur** (Italy) **96-points**
41. **Ferrand Selection des Anges (S.D.A.) Cognac** (France) **96-points**
42. **iichiko FRASCO Shochu** (Japan) **96-points**
43. **M&H APEX - Dead Sea Single Malt Whisky** (Israel) **96-points**
44. **Henry McKenna 10 Years Old Single Barrel Bottled-in-Bond Kentucky Straight Bourbon Whiskey** (United States) **96-points**
45. **Plantation Stiggins' Fancy Pineapple Rum** (Trinidad/Barbados/Jamaica) **96-points**
46. **Midleton Very Rare Vintage Release 2023 Irish Whiskey** (Ireland) **96-points**
47. **Johnnie Walker Green Label 15 Years Old Blended Malt Scotch Whisky** (Scotland) **96-points**
48. **Knappogue Castle 21 Years Old Single Malt Whiskey** (Ireland) **96-points**
49. **Lagavulin 16 Years Old Islay Single Malt Whisky** (Scotland) **96-points**
50. **Hercules Mulligan Rum & Rye Cocktail** (United States) **96-points**
51. **MEZAN XO Extra Old Jamaica Rum** (Jamaica) **96-points**
52. **Tumblin' Dice Rye Small Batch, Barrel Proof 7 Years Old Rye Whiskey** (United States) **96-points**
53. **Hayashi 24 Years Old Ryukyu Whisky** (Japan) **96-points**
54. **The Calistoga Star XO 10 Years Old California Brandy** (United States) **96-points**
55. **Redbreast 27 Years Old Single Pot Still Whiskey** (Ireland) **96-points**
56. **Renegade Rum Single Farm Origin: Lake Antoine (Lower Crater Lake South) Rhum Agricole** (Grenada) **96-points**
57. **Stade's Beach VAT No.1 Rum** (Barbados) **96-points**
58. **Stellum Equinox Bourbon Whiskey** (United States) **96-points**
59. **Talisker 18 Years Old Skye Single Malt Whisky** (Scotland) **96-points**
60. **1757 Rosso Vermouth di Torino** (Italy) **96-points**
61. **Plantation Xaymaca Special Dry Rum** (Jamaica) **96-points**
62. **Williams & Humbert Don Guido Pedro Ximenez 20 Years Old Sherry** (Spain) **96-points**
63. **Five Farms Irish Cream Liqueur** (Ireland) **96-points**
64. **UNBendt Bottled-in-Bond Straight Wheat Whiskey** (United States) **96-points**
65. **Vago Ensemble en Barro Mezcal** (Mexico) **96-points**
66. **Tommyrotter Distillery Cask Strength Bourbon Barrel Gin** (United States) **96-points**
67. **Barrell Private Release Whiskey Finished in a Pedro Ximenez Sherry Barrel DSX3 American Whiskey** (United States) **95-points**
68. **Bocchino Cantina Privata Moscato Sauternes Cask Finish Grappa** (Italy) **95-points**
69. **Ardbeg Corryvreckan Islay Single Malt Whisky** (Scotland) **95-points**
70. **Barcelo Imperial 40 Anniversary Rum** (Dominican Rep.) **95-points**
71. **Matsui Whisky Umeshu Liqueur** (Japan) **95-points**
72. **Blanton's Original Single Barrel Bourbon Whiskey** (United States) **95-points**
73. **Amagi Kokuto Sugar Japanese Rum, Cask 9034 9 Years Old Dark Rum** (Japan) **95-points**
74. **Brush Creek Railroad Rye Straight Rye Whiskey** (United States) **95-points**
75. **Courage & Conviction Sherry Cask American Single Malt Whiskey** (United States) **95-points**
76. **Sorel Liqueur** (United States) **95-points**
77. **Don Fulano Imperial Extra Anejo Tequila** (Mexico) **95-points**
78. **Faretti Decadent Biscotti Chocolate Liqueur** (Italy) **95-points**
79. **Partida Roble Fino Cristalino Reposado Tequila** (Mexico) **95-points**
80. **George Dickel Reserve Cask Strength 17 Years Old Tennessee Whiskey** (United States) **95-points**
81. **NightOwl Espresso Martini Tequila Coffee & Vanilla** (United States) **95-points**
82. **Lapostolle XO Pisco** (Chile) **95-points**
83. **21Seeds Cucumber Jalapeno** (Mexico) **95-points**
84. **Gran Duque d'Alba XO Brandy de Jerez** (Spain) **95-points**
85. **Ocho Plata Tequila** (Mexico) **95-points**
86. **Via Carota Craft Cocktails Classic Negroni** (United States) **95-points**
87. **Old Elk Wheat N' Rye Blend of Straight Whiskies** (United States) **95-points**
88. **Craigellachie 17 Years Old Speyside Single Malt Whisky** (Scotland) **95-points**
89. **Fluere Spiced Cane Dark Roast Distilled Non-Alcoholic Spirit** (Netherlands) **95-points**
90. **Witherspoon Whiskey Old Fashioned** (United States) **95-points**
91. **Shibui 10 Years Old Pure Malt Whisky** (Japan) **95-points**
92. **PAMA Mandarin Orange Pomegranate Seltzer** (United States) **95-points**
93. **Tom's Tonic** (United States) **95-points**
94. **TUMUGI BUNTAN Wapirits Koji** (Japan) **95-points**
95. **Ocho Widow Jane Barrel Select Reposado Tequila** (Mexico) **95-points**
96. **Wilderness Trail Bottled-in-Bond Kentucky Straight Rye Whiskey** (United States) **95-points**
97. **Peychaud's Aperitivo** (United States) **94-points**
98. **Amaricano Rossa Amaro** (United States) **94-points**
99. **Ole Smoky Apple Pie Tennessee Moonshine Flavored Whiskey** (United States) **94-points**
100. **Pine Bluffs 2 Years Old Straight Bourbon Whiskey** (United States) **94-points**

For the full results from
ULTIMATE SPIRITS CHALLENGE 2023
please see
ultimate-beverage.com/USC2023results